



Gibbs, Andrew &lt;agibbs@blm.gov&gt;

---

**Re: Highlands letter**

1 message

**Judice, Donato** <djudice@blm.gov>

Fri, Dec 2, 2016 at 12:35 PM

To: "Kern, Travis" &lt;twkern@blm.gov&gt;, Andrew Gibbs &lt;agibbs@blm.gov&gt;

Cc: Shane Findlay &lt;sfindlay@blm.gov&gt;, Todd Yeager &lt;tyeager@blm.gov&gt;, Diane Friez &lt;dfriez@blm.gov&gt;, Cornelia Hudson &lt;chudson@blm.gov&gt;

This needs input from the MCFO. I propose a conference/VTC call.

Todd/Shane/Cornie: Tuesday morning is good for me. How about 9:00 AM?

...Don

Donato J. Judice  
Deputy State Director  
Division of Energy, Minerals, & Realty  
Bureau of Land Management  
Montana State Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, Montana 59101-4669  
(406) 896-5111 Direct  
(406) 896-5293 Fax  
(406) 217-7617 Cell  
E-Mail Address: [djudice@blm.gov](mailto:djudice@blm.gov)

On Fri, Dec 2, 2016 at 12:16 PM, Kern, Travis <[twkern@blm.gov](mailto:twkern@blm.gov)> wrote:

Hi Andrew, I wanted you to see this. Perhaps help Don with ways to respond.

Travis

**Travis W. Kern**

**Chief, Branch of Fluid Minerals**

Bureau of Land Management  
Montana State Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, Montana 59101-4669  
Office: 406-896-5065  
Mobile: 406-794-2996  
[twkern@blm.gov](mailto:twkern@blm.gov)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jully McQuilliams** <[jmcquilliams@blm.gov](mailto:jmcquilliams@blm.gov)>

Date: Thu, Dec 1, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Subject: Re: Highlands letter

To: Donato Judice <[djudice@blm.gov](mailto:djudice@blm.gov)>, Travis Kern <[twkern@blm.gov](mailto:twkern@blm.gov)>, Kimberly Werven <[kwerven@blm.gov](mailto:kwerven@blm.gov)>

Cc: Suzanne Mehlhoff <[smehlhoff@blm.gov](mailto:smehlhoff@blm.gov)>, [j35spenc@blm.gov](mailto:j35spenc@blm.gov), Catherine Cook <[ccook@blm.gov](mailto:ccook@blm.gov)>, Steven Wells <[s1wells@blm.gov](mailto:s1wells@blm.gov)>

Don,

A few weeks ago, we discussed this letter from Highlands to the MTSO about including several EOIs for the next available lease sale. You mentioned that you spoke to the company's representative and conveyed to them that while it's too late to add these EOIs to the tentatively

scheduled May 2017 sale, you would add them to the next sale in that region which would normally occur in October 2017. However, as you know we are most likely going to push back all the sale dates (pending WO-100 approval), so that October sale really wouldn't occur until December 2017 - almost a year from now.

I recently received another phone call from an attorney on behalf of the company that is requesting these few EOIs be added to the July 2017 sale (which now would really be in September 2017). As you know, the company has offered to pay for a contract to an independent third party to do the NEPA to alleviate BLM workload concerns. The NEPA would still be up to BLM's discretion to adopt or not and there would be no guarantees that this company would win these parcels at a competitive BLM lease sale. This approach has been used in the past with other SOs for a win-win situation. While I recognize that you have a rotation for lease sales and these EOIs are from a different region than the area normally offered in the summer, I think with enough advance notice and contractor help, these EOIs could be offered in the September 2017 lease sale. I would suggest MTSO be open to considering this approach.

In addition to contacting myself, I know they contacted Larry Claypool and they mentioned they plan to elevate it to Mike Nedd soon. I have discussed this issue with Stevel but I have not responded back to them yet but told them I would try to give them a status call back tomorrow. Any thoughts you have about moving forward on these EOIs would be most appreciated.

Thanks,  
Jully

> On Nov 15, 2016, at 2:34 PM, McQuilliams, Jully <[jmcquilliams@blm.gov](mailto:jmcquilliams@blm.gov)> wrote:

>

> Hi Don,

>

> I received a copy of this letter and a phone call from an attorney

> representing them. I would like to know more about the background on this

> issue.

>

> Jully

>

>

>

> Jully McQuilliams

>

> Senior Minerals Leasing Specialist

>

> BLM, Division of Fluid Minerals

>

> 20 M Street, SE, Washington DC 20003

>

> Office-202-912-7156

>

> Cell-703-967-0463

>

> Fax-202-912-7199

> <Parcel Request for May 2016 Lease Sale.pdf>



Gibbs, Andrew &lt;agibbs@blm.gov&gt;

---

**Re: Lease sales**

1 message

---

**Werven, Kimberly** <kwerven@blm.gov>  
To: "Holm, Sarah" <sholm@blm.gov>  
Cc: Andrew Gibbs <agibbs@blm.gov>, Al Nash <al\_nash@blm.gov>

Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 12:41 PM

Highlands will be the lease holder on the listed leases.

On Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 12:12 PM, Holm, Sarah <sholm@blm.gov> wrote:  
Follow up questions from Stephen Jales...

Thank you.

*Sarah Holm  
Public Affairs Specialist  
Bureau of Land Management  
Montana State Office  
5001 Southgate Drive  
Billings, MT 59101  
Office Phone: 406-896-5258  
Cell: 406-694-6964  
Fax: 406-896-5299*

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jales, Stephen** <Stephen.Jales@tui.co.uk>  
Date: Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 12:10 PM  
Subject: RE: Lease sales  
To: "Holm, Sarah" <sholm@blm.gov>

Thank you Sarah. Can you therefore confirm if Highlands Montana Corp therefore **now have the lease on ALL** the land listed on the **noncompetitive sale results** pdf as per the December 2017? I am still unsure as there are no cost details on this pdf, whereas there are on the **competitive sale results** pdf.

Sorry to keep asking, but a few people have asked me to enquire on behalf of shareholders here in the UK.

Many thanks

Stephen Jales

---

**From:** Holm, Sarah [[sholm@blm.gov](mailto:sholm@blm.gov)]  
**Sent:** 30 January 2018 17:16  
**To:** Jales, Stephen

**Subject:** Re: Lease sales

Mr. Jales,

Thank you for your inquiry. The Priority number is simply the order the offer came in at. If more than one company had offered on these parcels we would have given the first one in priority 1, second one in priority 2, third one in priority 3 etc. and would have listed all the companies. The one that has the lowest priority number is the one that gets the lease, if for some reason they decide to withdraw their lease offer it would go to the person with priority 2. I hope this answers your question.

Thank you.

**Sarah Holm**  
**Public Affairs Specialist**  
*Bureau of Land Management*  
**Montana State Office**  
**5001 Southgate Drive**  
**Billings, MT 59101**  
**Office Phone: 406-896-5258**  
**Cell: 406-694-6964**  
**Fax: 406-896-5299**

On Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 9:02 AM, Jales, Stephen <[Stephen.Jales@tui.co.uk](mailto:Stephen.Jales@tui.co.uk)> wrote:

Hi, I am a shareholder in Highlands Montana Corp. and see that they have (in the December 2017 lease sale results on your website) noncompetitive bid results for lots of land in Montana with a priority P1. I see also competitive bid results with respective prices paid (none of which Highlands Montana Corp. has the lease to I see) for each land parcel.

Can you please confirm what noncompetitive P1 priority means? Does that mean the land is now leased by Highlands Montana Corp.? Or that they have applied for the lease and no competition/objection is noted, so are likely to have the lease approval in time? Or something else?

I'm just curious as to how this works

Thanks

Stephen Jales (UK)

Sent from my iPad

--  
Kimberly Werven  
Chief, Fluids Adjudication Section  
Bureau of Land Management  
Montana State Office  
[5001 Southgate Drive](#)  
[Billings, Montana 59101](#)

12/14/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Re: Lease sales

[406-896-5091](#)



Gibbs, Andrew &lt;agibbs@blm.gov&gt;

---

**Re: Lease sales**

1 message

---

**Werven, Kimberly** <kwerven@blm.gov>

Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 9:19 AM

To: Al Nash &lt;al\_nash@blm.gov&gt;

Cc: Andrew Gibbs &lt;agibbs@blm.gov&gt;, Sarah Holm &lt;sholm@blm.gov&gt;, Danny Counts &lt;dcounts@blm.gov&gt;

Hi Al, The Priority number is simply the order the offer came in at. If more than one company had offered on these parcels we would have given the first one in priority 1, second one in priority 2, third one in priority 3 etc. and would have listed all the companies. The one that has the lowest priority number is the one that gets the lease, if for some reason they decide to withdraw their lease offer it would go to the person with priority 2. Will you get back to MR Jales or should I? I received this email from the public room also.

On Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 8:40 AM, Al Nash <al\_nash@blm.gov> wrote:

Andrew/Kim... can you help with a response to the email below... and get it to Sarah for response?

Thanks!

**Al Nash**

Chief of Communications  
Montana/Dakotas State Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
Office 406.896.5260  
Cell 406.690.0790  
Email [al\\_nash@blm.gov](mailto:al_nash@blm.gov)

*"This report, by its very length, defends itself against the risk of being read."*  
-- Winston Churchill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jales, Stephen** <[Stephen.Jales@tui.co.uk](mailto:Stephen.Jales@tui.co.uk)>

Date: Tue, Jan 30, 2018 at 8:28 AM

Subject: Lease sales

To: "al\_nash@blm.gov" <[al\\_nash@blm.gov](mailto:al_nash@blm.gov)>

Hi, I am a shareholder in Highlands Montana Corp. and see that they have (in the December 2017 lease sale results on your website) noncompetitive bid results for lots of land in Montana with a priority P1. I see also competitive bid results with respective prices paid (none of which Highlands Montana Corp. has the lease to I see) for each land parcel.

Can you please confirm what noncompetitive P1 priority means? Does that mean the land is now leased by Highlands Montana Corp.? Or that they have applied for the lease and no competition/objection is noted, so are likely to have the lease approval in time? Or something else?

I'm just curious as to how this works

Thanks

Stephen Jales (UK)

---

--  
Kimberly Werven

12/14/2018

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Re: Lease sales

Chief, Fluids Adjudication Section  
Bureau of Land Management  
Montana State Office  
[5001 Southgate Drive](#)  
[Billings, Montana 59101](#)

[406-896-5091](#)